been computerised Equipment for computerisation of the office at Visakhapatnam is also already in place. Government propose to open Passport Collection Centers at Vijayawada and Tirupati, subject to allocation of appropriate office space by the state government.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Suggestions for Government's consideration may be forwarded either through the Passport Offices or directly to the Ministry of External Affairs.

Discussions held with U.S. Energy Secretary

946. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether U.S. Energy Secretary visited India last month; if so, the details of the discussions held; and

(b) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Slave Trade

947. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "Delhi a centre of slave trade to UK" which appeared in the Hindustan Times dated the April 27, 1998; and

(b) if so, the reaction thereto including the immediate steps taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Applications pending in Regional Passport Offices

948. SHRI BHAGAVAN MAJHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications pending in each of the regional passport offices in the country as on date;

(b) the time since when these are pending and the reasons for the delay; and

(c) the details of the period under which all formalities related to issue of passport are likely to be completed/ cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) A tabulated statement of passport applications pending in various Passport Offices is laid on the table of the House. The reasons for delay in issue of passport are normally receipt of negative or incompelte reports from police authorities, discrepancies in documents submitted by the applicants, particularly in respect of applications received by post, lack of response from applicants who are asked to submit additional documents, etc. Every effort is being made to expedite disposal and clear the backlog of pending applications.

Statement

S.No.	Passport Office	Pendency brought forward from 1997	Pending over a month as on 15.5.1998	Total Pendency as on 15.5.1998
1	AHMEDABAD	19559	7368	22537
2	BANGALORE	20399	8878	17378
3	BAREILLY	14108	12172	16983
4	BHOPAL	3679	1668	4321
5	BHUBANESHWAR	4022	3272	4285
6	CALCUTTA	7304	1978	7709
7	CHANDIGARH	13362	9515	19293
8	CHENNAI	22109	17598	28673
9	COCHIN	8941	1472	10617
10	DELHI	33753	26483	32954
11	GHAZIABAD	—	3123	4322
12	GOA	2200	2282	2964
13	GUWAHATI	2511	1639	2747
14	HYDERABAD	31383	4777	21037
15	JAIPUR	14647	11013	16579
16	JALANDHAR	18456	16914	26883
17	KOZHIKODE	14041	12293	23226
18	LUCKNOW	35316	16852	26673
19	MUMBAI	17044	6309	25613
20	NAGPUR	1087	262	1158
21	PATNA	6145	2954	7435
22	TRICHY	36378	19685	25626
23	TRIVANDRUM	11618	3300	10448
24	JAMMU	8475	7935	8474
25	SRINAGAR	—	44840	44958
26	THANE	1340	224	1506
27	VISAKHAPATNAM	—	899	4690

Passport Offices at Ghaziabad, Srinagar and Visakhapatnam were opened in 1998 and there is no carried over pendency from 1997.

रूस में तस्करों के लिए काम कर रहे भारतीय छात्र

949. **श्री गोपाल सिंह जी० सोलंकी:** क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि रूस में अध्ययनरत भारतीय छात्र तस्करों के लिए कूरियर का कार्य कर रहे हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार ने उन परिस्थितियों का कोई विश्लेषण किया है जो रूस में भारतीय छात्रों को तस्करी की गतिविधियों में लिप्त होने के लिए बाध्य कर रहे हैं;

(ग) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(घ) सरकार ने इस संबंध में क्या कदम उठाए हैं?

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती वसुन्धरा राजे): (क) से (घ) सरकार को यह पता है कि रूस में अध्ययनरत कुछ भारतीय छात्र विगत में अवैध गतिविधियों में लगे थे। चूंकि ऐसी अवैध गतिविधियों की अनदेखी नहीं की जा सकती है। छात्रवृत्तियों को कम करने या समाप्त कर दिए जाने, फीस में बढ़ोत्तरी तथा रूस में निर्वाह व्यय में वृद्धि के परिणामस्वरूप भारतीय छात्रों के सामने आ रही परेशानियों के बारे में सरकार को जानकारी है। सरकार ने इन कठिनाईयों को हल करने के